Fact Sheet

PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING
YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY PROGRAM
U.S. Mission to Nigeria

➢ The YES program was introduced by the U.S. Department of State in 2003 to promote mutual understanding between United States and the Muslim world.

➢ The program targets secondary school students in their fourth year and who are from predominantly Muslim countries all over the world.

➢ The programs aims at helping the students become more familiar with life, culture and education in the United States.

➢ Selected students spend one academic year in a U.S. high school, an equivalent of Nigeria's senior secondary school under the care of host families in four majot cities in Iowa, United States.

➢ The USG funding amounts of the programs is about to over $10 million appropriated by the U.S. Congress in 2003.

➢ Nigeria is among the 13 countries worldwide participating on the program with Sokoto State as one of the pioneer States. The other state is Kaduna.

➢ The program was expanded to Plateau and Taraba States in 2005.

➢ The program will be expanded to Kano, Bauchi and FCT in 2006.

➢ The current group now traveling to U.S. consists of 15 girls and 15 boys.

➢ 76 Nigerian secondary school students have participated in the program since inception in 2003.

➢ Sokoto State Government has been of tremendous financial and moral support to the program especially at inception when many parents and religious leaders were very suspicious of its mission. The former Governor enlisted his son into the program in 2003 and his administration has been making financial contribution to support local travels of the state delegates to Lagos and Abuja.

Results:

➢ Most of the participants on the YES program came back with improved speaking and writing skills.

➢ They have better understanding of the U.S. culture and society.

➢ Many students try to replicate some of the positive values they learn during their stay such as promotion of religious tolerance, peace among diverse religious groups and voluntary service to communities.